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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 11:30:36 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

December 22, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 5367 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR  
Captions: None  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: THE GCC SUMMIT IRAQ  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 05367

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: A/PAO:TPONCE  
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB  
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCADI886  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC  
DE RUEHAD #5367/01 3561304  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 221304Z DEC 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2765  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0753  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0781  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 005367

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;  
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH AND MOC; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: THE GCC SUMMIT IRAQ

1. SUMMARY: THE GCC SUMMIT IN KUWAIT AND THE SITUATION IN IRAQ  
FOLLOWING THE CAPTURE OF SADDAM HUSSEIN DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE  
PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. IN HIS "AL ITTIHAD" COLUMN,

DR.SHAMLAN AL EISSA EXPLAINS THE CHALLENGES FACING GCC COUNTRIES BUT ENCOURAGES THESE COUNTRIES TO CONFRONT THESE PROBLEMS. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT GULF NATIONALS ARE LOOKING TO THIS SUMMIT WITH HOPE AND AMBITION. A "GULF NEWS" EDITORIAL URGED GCC AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO PUT ASIDE THEIR CRITICISMS OF THE US AND HELP THE NEW IRAQI LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

12. UNDER THE HEADLINE "GULF CHALLENGES," COLUMNIST DR. SHAMLAN YOUSEF AL EISSA WROTE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" ON 12/21:

"... THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE PUT FORWARD IN THE SUMMIT SHOULD THE ISSUE OF SECURITY, WHICH IS AN INTERNAL ISSUE ... ALTHOUGH THE SECURITY ISSUE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GULF COUNTRIES, THERE ARE MANY FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICTS ON HOW TO CONFRONT THIS PROBLEM ..."

"THE SECOND SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IS IRAQ, SINCE THE GCC COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED THEIR CONCERN REGARDING IRAQI SECURITY AND STABILITY ... HOWEVER, THE GCC COUNTRIES DON'T HAVE A UNIFIED GULF POSITION REGARDING IRAQ; EVERY GULF COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN VIEW ... UNTIL THIS MOMENT, THE GCC COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF WHAT THEY WANT FROM A NEW IRAQ. DO THEY WANT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OR DO THEY WANT THE PREVIOUS REGIME BACK? AND DO THEY ACCEPT THE FEDERAL IDEA PUT FORWARD TO IRAQIS? ... IF THE NEW IRAQ IS STABLE, THEN THE GCC COUNTRIES WILL BE STABLE AND WILL BENEFIT MORE FROM RE-BUILDING IRAQ, BUT IF CONFLICTS RISE AND CIVIL WAR OCCURS IN IRAQ THEN WE WILL BE THE FIRST AFFECTED. THIS IS WHY THE GULF SUMMIT IS REQUESTED TO IDENTIFY A CLEAR IRAQI STANCE."

"ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE GCC COUNTRIES ARE FACING INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE FROM THE U.S., WHO DEMANDS THAT THE GCC COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT POLITICAL REFORM FOR THE EXPANSION OF NATIONAL COOPERATION, GIVING WOMEN POLITICAL RIGHTS, AND GETTING RID OF CORRUPTION ... ON THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL LEVEL, THERE ARE DEMANDS TO CHANGE THE CURRICULUM ... WE HOPE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE GCC COUNTRIES MEETING IN KUWAIT REALIZE THE DANGERS OF THESE CHALLENGES AND PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON HOW TO RESOLVE THEM."

13. NOTING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF HAVE THEIR AMBITIONS SET ON THE GCC SUMMIT IN KUWAIT, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/22:

"... THE GULF NATIONAL LONGS FOR MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT EMPHASIZE THE UNITY OF GOALS, DESTINY, AND BENEFITS. HE WANTS ECONOMIC AND MONETARY GULF UNITY, HE WANTS A UNIFIED PASSPORT, HE WANTS A WATER AND ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, HE WANTS A UNIFIED AND DEVELOPED CURRICULUM ... OF COURSE, THESE MISSIONS ARE NOT EASY, BUT THEY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH SERIOUSLY BECAUSE THE GULF NATIONAL IS LOOKING TO THIS SUMMIT WITH HOPE FOR MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ALIGNED WITH THESE AMBITIONS."

14. POINTING OUT THAT THE GCC HAS SURVIVED DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE REGION, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 12/22:

"... IT IS NOT EXAGGERATING TO SAY THAT THE GCC SURVIVED A PERIOD OF CHANGES AND CHALLENGES DURING THE EIGHTIES AND NINETIES IN THE PREVIOUS DECADE, AND THE FALSITY OF THE BET THAT THE ITS ROLE WILL ONLY BE REGIONAL AND WILL DIMINISH AMONG THE ARAB SIDE WAS PROVEN ... THE KUWAIT SUMMIT WILL PRODUCE A SIGN OF HOPE FOR A BRIGHT ARAB TOMORROW WITHOUT HOLLOW SLOGANS."

15. URGING GCC AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO FOCUS ON ASSISTING IRAQ'S NEW LEADERSHIP, DUBAI-BASED EXPATRIATE-ORIENTED "GULF NEWS" EDITORIALIZED 12/20:

"THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING THIS WEEK'S ANNUAL SUMMIT OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL IS WHAT SUPPORT THE SIX GULF STATES WILL GIVE TO THE EMERGING GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ ... THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CONCERN IN THE ARAB WORLD OVER AMERICA'S RIGHT TO LEAD THE ATTACK ON SADDAM'S IRAQ. THIS REMAINS A VITAL ISSUE FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE, AND FOR THE ARAB WORLD WHEN DEALING WITH AMERICA, BUT IT IS NOT RELEVANT WHEN DEALING WITH THE NEW IRAQ LEADERSHIP. THEY WILL BE TAKING ON THE HUGE JOB OF RECREATING THEIR COUNTRY AFTER DECADES OF REPRESSION, AND ANY RESENTMENT TOWARD THE COALITION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE IRAQIS."

